

Juvenile Justice Commission of San Diego County

Jails and Lockups 2023 Inspection Report

2022 Yearly Statistics (from Log Books)

0 # **Secure** detentions **OVER** 6 hours

0 # **Secure** detentions **UNDER** 6 hours

0 # **Non-secure** detentions **OVER** 6 hours

39 # **Non-secure** detentions **UNDER** 6 hours

Authority: Pursuant to Welfare & Institutions Code Section 209(b), a judge of the juvenile court shall conduct an annual inspection, either in person or through a delegated member of the appropriate county or regional juvenile justice commission, of any law enforcement facility that contains a lockup for adults which, in the preceding year, was used for the secure detention of any minor.

Please respond to sections that apply to the facility you are inspecting (type or print clearly)

Facility Name: National City Police Dept. Date of Inspection: 11/9/2023
Address: 1200 National City Blvd. Date of Last Inspection: 10/6/2022
National City, CA 91950 Phone Number: 760-839-4722

Facility Manager: Chief Jose Tellez Contact Person: Corp. Salvador Gil
Phone No.: 760-336-4400 Phone No.: 619-336-4411
Staff Assisting: _____ E-mail: sgil@nationalcityca.gov
Phone No.: _____ Alt. Contact: _____

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge: Hon. Ana España
Commission Chair: Maya De La Torre
Phone No.: 858-634-1555
Inspecting Commissioners: Deme Hill

I. **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

Logbooks are completed daily which results in hundreds of pages being blank. More effective and more common in comparison to other law enforcement stations using forms on a monthly basis would simplify matters and provide accurate information. Records reviewed appeared complete, including the number of supervision checks. This appears to be better record keeping from last year (2022), based on previous comments. Removing blank pages would allow for easier inspection, less waste of time and paper, and a reduction of unnecessary administrative burden for department staff.

As for the number of youths detained in 2023, there were zero youth detained in a secured setting. Non-secured youth totaled 39 through November 12, 2023. This includes 6 Polinsky transports and 2 run-aways. For the last 12 months from November 2022 to November 2023 there were 52 total youth in non-secured, and zero in a secured setting.

The facility appeared clean and well kept. Minors are detained where an officer can see them at all times through a large window. Youth can use any bathroom they choose depending on their own self-identified gender and/or identity. Snacks, water and blankets are readily available and onsite.

Younger youth who may be minors going to Polinsky or reunited with parents may be held in non-

secure room, or the community room. The site had a host of toys available for younger youth in those circumstances. Detained adults are held downstairs and have no contact with youth for any purpose. Staff was unable to define if youth are offered a formal orientation when detained.

Human trafficking and prostitution are a consistent problem they are seeing in the National City area, due to hotels and nearby military base. Youth who are suspected of prostitution or being trafficked are diverted, not arrested and referred to the Human Trafficking Task Force for intervention if they are minors, and some youth may be taken to Polinsky for their own safety.

National City has a diversion program onsite with South Bay Community Services (SBCS). Youth are diverted from the system and sent to South Bay for misdemeanors, and another South Bay program for felonies (alternatives to detention). Two South Bay Community Services staff were on site during the inspection and shared that they offer the City of National City Diversion Program funded by Probation, which helps with first time status offenses and misdemeanors. SBCS offers a three-month diversion program of case management, individual and family counseling, community service and youth must write an essay to complete the program. On average 6-10 youth may be served a month with an ongoing caseload of approximately 20 youth at any given time.

During the onsite visit staff did not produce procedures on how to handle minors, or procedures on minors who are intoxicated, however procedures were provided at a later date that included policies on both. Staff did note that in an occurrence of a minor appearing intoxicated they are seen by a medic or taken to Rady's Children's Hospital for evaluation. Staff stated that are not sent to juvenile hall that appear intoxicated without a medical clearance from Rady's Children's Hospital. Staff noted that he has been there for 10 months and has not seen an intoxicated youth while working in this position.

II. **RECOMMENDATIONS** *(if any):*

The Juvenile Justice Commission recommends:

1. Remove blank logs in the JJC files, as it makes it difficult to complete a timely inspection, additional blank logs are unnecessary for the purposes of JJC.
2. Continue to track youth detained for purposes of going to Polinsky, reuniting with parents, runaways and/or missing youth.
3. Continue the partnership with South Bay Community Services which appears to be a good solid diversion program, and a model of what can be done to decrease system involvement for youth.
4. Increase opportunities for collaboration and data trending for youth involved in human trafficking and prostitution.
5. Refer youth to other service providers for housing. Often youth who are in circumstances of trading housing for sex, have ran away, may have family issues and are seeing refuge at night for a place to sleep (as defined by the San Diego Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development federal plan). Connecting with youth homeless service providers to attempt to find housing for youth who may be in need of a place to live, and/or shelter to leave their abuser or prostitution can be key to diverting youth from the system. Service providers that work with youth who are sex trafficked include housing programs, including emergency shelter for minors (cool-beds).

Youth who are at-risk of homelessness or are homeless can also be referred to youth serving organizations. The youth providers operating these programs are trained in best practices for serving youth who are at-risk of child welfare and/or justice involvement. This increase in coordination may allow for immediate resources for youth who need stable

housing, and services to leave their situation of prostitution and trafficking, and/or their abuser.

6. Ensure youth are provided with an orientation as soon as detained, including how long they intend to be there, notifying them of their rights, access to snacks, water, blankets, and restroom facilities.
7. Ensure there are written policies regarding how minors are managed while detained, and that those policies are available to all officers who may come in contact with a youth. Have policies readily available for inspection and/or posted.
8. Ensure there are written policies on how youth are managed if intoxicated and that officers are trained on how to handle youth that are intoxicated. Have the policy readily available for inspection.

The following questions are used to assess compliance with the state standards governing law enforcement facilities in which minors are held in temporary custody. See Article 9, *Minors in Temporary Custody in a Law Enforcement Facility*, Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations (15 Cal. Code Regs. §§ 1140–1151).

III. CONDITIONS OF DETENTION:

- A. Are minors provided with orientation? Yes No
- B. Are they informed of the purpose of detention? Yes No
- C. Are they told the length of time detention is expected to last? Yes No
- D. Are they informed of the six-hour maximum time limit? Yes No

IV. CONDITIONS OF SECURE DETENTION (e.g. cell/locked room):

- A. What is the proximity of minors to adult inmates?
Adults are held downstairs.
- B. What is the ability and frequency of staff to supervise minor?
Youth are supervised through a glass window at all times.
- C. Is there constant auditory access to staff? Yes No
- D. Are minors provided with a snack if requested? Yes No
- E. Do minors have access to toilets and washing facilities? Yes No
- F. Do minors have access to a drinking fountain or water? Yes No
- G. Are there provisions to provide clothing or blankets to assure comfort? Yes No

V. CONDITIONS OF SECURE DETENTION OUTSIDE A LOCKED ENCLOSURE:

(this includes minors who are handcuffed to a fixed object such as a rail, bench, chair or table):

- A. Are minors assured no “contact” with adult inmates? Yes No
- B. Is there constant supervision? Yes No
- C. Is there a 30-minute limit and Watch Commander approval every 30 minutes thereafter? Yes No
- D. Are minors placed in cell when one becomes available? Yes No
- E. Do minors have access to toilet and washing facilities? Yes No
- F. Is there access to a drinking fountain? Yes No

VI. CONDITIONS OF NON-SECURE DETENTION:

- A. Is there direct and constant supervision by staff during the entire custody period? Yes No
- B. Are males and females put in same room? Yes No

VII. INTOXICATED MINORS:

- A. Does the facility have written procedures for the handling of minors under the influence of any intoxicating substances? Yes No

B. Did the facility detain any minors, either secure or non-secure, determined to be under the influence of an intoxicating substance? Yes No

If yes: N/A

1. Was medical clearance obtained? Yes No

2. Were these detentions documented? Yes No

3. If the detention was secure, were there documented safety checks no less than once every 15 minutes? Yes No

4. If the detention was non-secure, was the minor in the constant presence of staff? Yes No

5. Who provides medical clearance for these minors?

VIII. DOCUMENTATION:

A. Are all mandated visual checks documented? Yes No

B. Are secure/non-secure detention logs used? Yes No

C. Do the detention logs list the offense and reason which formed the decision to place the minor in secure detention, as well as the length of time the minor was securely detained? Yes No

D. Does the facility have signage posted explaining the procedures for the handling of secure / non-secure detention of minors? Yes No

IX. ARE THERE INSTANCES IN WHICH A MINOR(S) WAS HELD FOR MORE THAN SIX HOURS? IF YES, LIST THE DATES, STARTING AND ENDING TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCES FOR EACH INSTANCE.

N/A

X. Minors Interviewed (Comments):

N/A